

**2015 Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report  
Del Oro Water Company – River Island Territory 2  
Public Water System Number 54-02048**

*We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2015 and may include earlier monitoring data.*

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Water for the Del Oro Water Co., River Island District, Territory 2 is produced from wells. Specifically, Wells: No. 1 and 2

A Source Water Assessment for Wells No. 1 and 2 were completed August, 2002. Wells No. 1 and 2 are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: Nitrates from runoff; leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; and erosion of natural deposits.

For additional information, concerning your drinking water, or for a copy of the Drinking Water Source Assessment, contact Community Relations at P.O. Drawer 5172, Chico, CA 95927 1-530-717-2514. You will be notified with your monthly billing of any public meetings concerning your drinking water.

**TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

**Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**MFL:** Million fibers per liter

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** MCLs or MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Variances and Exemptions:** Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**ND:** Not detectable at testing limit

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

**ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**ppt:** Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**ppq:** Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**The sources of drinking water** (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally – occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

**Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink**, USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

**Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent.** The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

**TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA – 2015 Monthly**

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest Number of Detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG (MPN/mL)	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. Coli	0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or E.Coli	0	Human and animal fecal waste

**TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER – July 13, 2015**

Lead and Copper	Number of samples collected	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile level detected	Number of sites exceeding AL	MCL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppm)	5	4.2	0	150	20	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	5	566	0	1300	170	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

**TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS – Well No. 1**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	8/2015	33.7	None	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	8/2015	234	None	Generally found in ground and surface water

**TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A *PRIMARY* DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> * (ppm)	2015	41.45	36.49 – 45.17	45	Fertilizer, natural deposits, septic systems
Arsenic (ppb)	8/21/2015	6.85	6.7 – 7.0	10	Natural deposits, run off from orchards
Fluoride (ppm)	8/21/2015	0.10	0.10	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2015	0.0179	ND – 0.0357	1	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (pCi/L)	2015	14.77	9.57 – 24.0	20	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2015	17.47	13.2 – 22.9	15	Erosion of natural deposits

**TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A *SECONDARY* DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sulfate (ppm)	8/21/2015	25.9	600	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits' industrial wastes
Chloride (ppm)	8/21/2015	27.9	600	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance (umhos)	8/21/2015	701	900 – 1600	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence

**TABLE 6 – DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Highest Level	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	8/21/2015	18	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)		3.9	60	
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	12/2015	0.84	40	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

\* Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. \* Del Oro Water Co., River Island District, Territory 2 has Compliance order No. 03-12-080-031 issued by State Water Resources Board – Division of Drinking Water for Nitrate violations in our Well 1 and Well 2, testing is done monthly and customers have been notified quarterly when levels of Nitrate exceed the MCL of 45 ppm. Well No. 2 has not been in use for public consumption since January 2010, and Well No. 1 has been in compliance since August 2013. Del Oro Water Co. continues to monitor the nitrate levels monthly and should a violation occur again, the customers will be notified. For more information you can go to [www.ephracking.cdc.gov](http://www.ephracking.cdc.gov).

#### **WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE NITRATE PROBLEMS?**

Pleasant Valley Canal Surface Water Treatment Plant – Several of the groundwater wells within the River Island Territories 1 and 2 service areas have either elevated or levels of nitrate and radiological contaminants that exceed drinking water standards, as defined under the State Water Board (formerly State Department of Public Health) drinking water standards.

Del Oro is addressing the groundwater contamination issue by the proposed installation of a Surface Water Treatment Facility that will utilize surface water from the Tule River conveyed through the Pleasant Valley Canal. The surface water treatment facility will include: a canal diversion structure; raw water conveyance mainlines; chemical treatment systems; storage tank and booster systems; and a modular, package-type, contact adsorption clarification-filtration plant. A treated water mainline will also be constructed to convey water to both Territory 1 and 2 water distribution systems.

The Treatment Plant plans and specifications presented to the State Water Resources Board – Division of Drinking Water, for their review continue in the approval process with no firm date set for the low interest financing or commencement of the project. Regulatory review by both the California Public Utilities Commission and the State Water Resources Board – Division of Drinking Water will follow with an anticipated review and approval date of 2016. Accordingly, it is anticipated construction of the new water treatment plant will commence in 2017 and continue through 2019 calendar years.

#### **ADDITIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER:**

***Del Oro Water Company would like to inform our customers to the safety of lead and copper testing.*** While Del Oro Water Company does not use lead pipes in the distribution lines that serve our customers, older homes may have been built using lead pipes or lead connectors. For this reason ***Lead and Copper Tap Monitoring*** by Del Oro Water Company is conducted at designated customer's homes and is an important part of a water utilities monitoring schedule.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Del Oro Water Company, is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

While your drinking water meets the current standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and other circulatory problems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly individuals, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The USEPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.